

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. An even greater concern is the abuse of power and public trust shown by forcing local stations to air a blatant, twisted political attack against Kerry just weeks before a critical election.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. That includes unbiased reportage and balanced political air time. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.